ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A differentiability judgment portion (2) judges differentiability of patterns in an original image, based on human vision characteristics. Based on the results of this judgment, a magnification processing portion (3) selects a magnified image generated by a spatial frequency preserving image magnification portion (30) for patterns in the original image whose differentiability has been judged to be low, and selects a magnified image generated by an edge emphasizing image magnification portion (31) for patterns whose differentiability has been judged to be high, and obtaining a magnified image of the entire original image by combining the selected magnified images. Thus, when magnifying the original image, a magnifying process is performed, in which patterns that are difficult to differentiate and are non-conspicuous with regard to human vision characteristics stay non-conspicuous, whereas patterns that are easy to differentiate and are conspicuous are subjected to a magnification process that emphasizes edges.